



news and information
for employees of the
city of Saint Paul

January 23, 2004

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Saint Paul prepares to welcome 7000 Hmong

On Saturday, January 17th, Mayor Kelly announced that Saint Paul will join representatives of Ramsey County, Saint Paul Area School District and the greater area non profit community in a trip to a camp in Thailand to prepare for the eventual arrival of up to 7000 Hmong refugees in Saint Paul.



Mayor Kelly is at the podium; Sia Lo is standing third from the left.

The U.S. State Department recently announced plans to grant refugee status to some 14,400 Hmong living in a Thai refugee camp about 90 miles north of Bangkok.

The trip will give the city, county, school district and state the kind of

information needed to prepare an effective action plan, and begin to build relationships that will help in easing the Hmong refugees' adjustment to living in a different country. The group is planning to meet with

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Schneider is new Water Services General Manager

The Board of Water Commissioners appointed Stephen Schneider general manager of Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) as of December 17th.

Schneider is a civil engineer and has worked at SPRWS since 1990. He began with the utility as a project manager, served as assistant superintendent of the utility's distribution division and as assistant to the general manager. More recently, he had returned to the Engineering Division to respond to

increased demands on engineering projects.

"There were many qualified

candidates from inside SPRWS and across the country who brought a wide variety of background and experience," said Pat Harris, president of the Board and City Council member. "Board members felt that Steve brings the right mix of these qualities and that he will be a

leader who will serve SPRWS customers well."

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Stephen Schneider

Please print this for your co-workers. The City is continuing to save money by not producing printed copies of the City Update. Please print this newsletter for co-workers without computer access. Thank you.

City looking for Neid award nominees

The City is now seeking nominations of a City employee who will receive the 2004 Karl Neid Community Involvement Award. This year's recipient will be the 12th employee to receive this prestigious award.

For those unfamiliar with Karl Neid, he was a lifelong Saint Paul resident who grew up in a politically active East Side family. He spent countless hours working on other people's political campaigns. Karl was elected to the Saint Paul City Council in November, 1991, and proudly began representing his beloved East Side in January, 1992.

Sadly, Karl experienced a fatal heart attack on May 8th, 1992 and passed away at 43 years of age.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported, "He was a virtual one-man volunteer organization on the East Side...." Each Christmas, Karl and his wife, Joanne Tromiczak-Neid, enjoyed playing Santa and Mrs. Claus at nursing homes, schools and for their friends' children. Karl was a modest man who never sought credit for all his accomplishments.

In 1993, the Karl Neid Community Involvement Award was established to honor this exceptional individual who was both a City employee and a City Councilmember.

The award annually recognizes a City employee who has exemplified a record of outstanding public service and who has made significant contributions to improving the quality of life in the community. Preference will be given to employees

whose involvement directly benefits a community within the City of Saint Paul.

Nominations may be submitted by City employees, citizens or bargaining units. Individuals who have been nominated in previous years may be nominated again; however, previous nomination forms are not retained by the Mayor's Office.

A Selection Committee, composed of Bargaining Unit Representatives, will screen the nominations and select this year's recipient. The recipient will be recognized at an award ceremony in City Council Chambers in May.

The Mayor does not participate in the selection process, or recommend who the recipient shall be.

Please take the time to nominate a City employee, co-worker, and friend who you believe exemplifies the qualities Karl Neid demonstrated during his lifetime. This award is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge an exceptional individual whose efforts deserve recognition.

The deadline for accepting nominations is Friday, April 2nd.

The nomination form is available from Darlyne Morrow of the Mayor's Office. Contact her at 651-266-8525 or darlyne.morrow@ci.stpaul.mn.us. she may also be reached at

Darlyne Morrow
Mayor's Office
390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Striking a formal pose at last year's Neid award ceremony were, from left, Robin Madsen, Joanne Tromiczak-Neid, award winner Kay Wittgenstein, and Mayor Kelly. The award was presented as a surprise on April 23rd at Wittgenstein's Public Health office.



KARL NEID COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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1993
Kevin Buron
Public Works

.....

1994
Lou Cotroneo
Public Works

.....

1995
Charles Hardy
Public Works

.....

1996
Mary Ann Thompson
Deceased, late 1996
Public Works

.....

1997
William Brown
City Attorney's Office

.....

1998
Commander Richard Gardell
Police

.....

1999
Ann Copeland
Deceased, Summer, 2001
Planning and Economic Development

.....

2000
Fong Lor
License, Inspection and
Environmental Protection (LIEP)

.....

2001
Officer Keith Draz
Police

.....

2002
Sergeant Mamie Singleton
Police

.....

2003
Kay Wittgenstein
Public Health

.....

STEPHEN SCHNEIDER from p. 1

Schneider earned a Bachelor of Geological Engineering in 1988 and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1992, both from the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota. He is currently working on a Master of Business Administration through Metropolitan State University.

Schneider said that he is very excited about taking on this new challenge.

"I certainly want to continue on our current path of success, which—above all means providing high-quality drinking water, excellent customer service, and sound fiscal management," Schneider said, "But I also want to put my own stamp on the operation of the utility. One of my primary goals will be to ensure that our water system remains reliable and capable of providing a high quality product to our customers for generations to come."

Bernie Bullert, the previous general manager, retired from SPRWS in November after 35 years with the company, 11 of them as its head. Bullert is now working in the private sector as a senior registered engineer with TKDA, a Saint Paul engineering consulting firm. Barb Woolsey, the utility's business division manager, served as interim general manager until Schneider's appointment.

SPRWS employs about 250 people and supplies drinking water to the City of Saint Paul and eight of the city's suburbs, including Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Roseville, Maplewood, Mendota Heights, and West St. Paul.

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representatives of the refugee camp, representatives of the Thai Royal Family, and the American Ambassador to Thailand.

"The hall we're standing in was built to commemorate all of the men and women who fought to protect the values of freedom and democracy and placed those causes above the value of their own lives," Kelly said. "Many of the Hmong refugees coming to this community fought to protect those same values."

Since the City of Saint Paul has the largest population of Hmong persons outside of Southeast Asia, and the largest number of Hmong professionals, city officials estimate that more than half of the 14,400 Hmong will migrate to Saint Paul.

The mayor outlined the successes of many of the Hmong community 30 years after the first Hmong refugee migration to Saint Paul. "Their entrepreneurship has revitalized many parts of our city—especially

University Avenue and the lower East Side" Kelly said.

Kelly also announced the new appointment of Sia Lo, who has served as deputy city attorney for the Criminal Division in the City Attorney's Office for the past two years. As a senior policy advisor to the mayor, Lo will assist the administration in serving the Asian Community. "Sia will bring to my administration the critical skills and abilities that my office will need in order to meet these new challenges and better serve the Hmong and Asian Community," he said.

Lo thanked many for support, including judge and former mayor Lawrence Cohen, who was in attendance.

Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough stressed the importance being tolerant of refugee population soon to call Saint Paul home. "It is important to remember that most of us immigrated to this country at one time or another."



Among those attending the January 17th press event were these five cuties.

City job openings as of January 23rd, 2004

Application deadline	Job title	Bi-weekly or hourly salary rate	Exam date
Open	ECC Telecommunicator	\$1,459.78 bi-weekly	See Job Ann
02/02/04	Bricklayer	\$29.69 hr (W/O PERA)	See Job Ann
02/02/04	Plan Examiner II	\$1,489.63 bi-weekly	See Job Ann
02/04/04	Police Office (prom)	\$1,615.90 bi-weekly	See Job Ann

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: 651-266-6500 or visit the web site: www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/jobopenings. For jobs announced after January 7th, please call our 24-hour job line, 651-266-6502.

On January 20th, 2003, Mayor Randy Kelly announced a hiring freeze for the City of Saint Paul until further notice. This applies to all positions within the City, but excludes the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health and RiverCentre.

Certain positions may be determined exempt for the hiring freeze; please continue to check our web site and job line to see if there are any new postings in which you might be interested.